

having done the rule, again not having started debate on the Shays-Meehan bill that we were promised a vote on over and over and over again.

Mr. Speaker, I hope someone on the other side can give me some justification, just a little bit of justification as to why we are canceling this debate on this rule again. It is outrageous.

Mr. Speaker, this has been canceled five times, this rule. And I cannot believe we are going to walk out of here before we vote on this rule. The American people are demanding a vote. I will yield to whoever can explain this to me.

#### PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, would you check and see if the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) took the campaign finance bill with him on that leave of absence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is out of order.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MCHUGH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MCHUGH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CONYERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

#### CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR SOCIETY PATRIOT AWARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to call attention to something that happened in my district last weekend. The Congressional Medal of Honor Society held their annual convention in Saratoga Springs, New York.

I think those who may live west of the Mississippi may not understand, but the Saratoga battle was the turning point in the Revolution. It was when General John Burgoyne was defeated by Benedict Arnold, and that was the turning point of the Revolution. That is the reason that we actually stand here today in the greatest

democracy in the history of the world and the longest standing democracy in the history of the world.

At that convention, I was very proud to have been the chairman of the occasion and the Congressional Medal of Honor Society gave their Patriot Award to two great Americans, one by the name of Bob Dole, former Senator and our presidential candidate. And it was the first time they gave a dual award to two people, the same award, and that was to Elizabeth Dole who, as we all know, is the head of the American Red Cross.

Mr. Speaker, it was a thrilling occasion to see those two wonderful people who have devoted their entire lives to their country in one way or another. I just wanted to call the attention of this body to the fact that that convention was held.

During that same time, we were very proud to have the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force all represented with their stellar bands participating in a parade that day on Saturday. And all of the people that turned out were honoring some 100 still-living members who have received that highest award, that is the Congressional Medal of Honor Society Patriot Award. So I wanted to call that to the attention of the membership.

#### ADDRESSING HAWAII'S ECONOMIC RECESSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues in Congress for all of their cooperation in our fight to help Hawaii's economy and to explain why the fight is far from over and why we must redouble our efforts to find solutions to the State's economic problems.

Over the last few months, I have had success in bringing new jobs to Hawaii. For instance, the defense authorization bill contains over \$200 million for new, needed construction projects in Hawaii, a record level. This includes renovation and construction of the barracks at Schofield and Kaneohe Marine base, as well as funding for Navy family housing and the Pearl Harbor Public Works Center.

Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues' constituents are members of the U.S. military and reside for at least part of their time in service at Schofield or Kaneohe or Pearl Harbor. The military is very important to Hawaii. Having the military in Hawaii itself is vital to our national interests. I strongly believe we need to maintain and build upon the military presence in Hawaii as we approach the 21st century in the interest of the national interests of the United States.

In addition to this, this year's transportation bill included funding for several vitally important highway

projects which will further stimulate the construction industry in Hawaii, as well as provide much-needed improvements. I extend thanks for myself and on behalf of the people of Hawaii for all of the help that has come from Washington recently as we try to work our way out of this economic recession.

Mr. Speaker, I returned recently from Hawaii and continue to hear from families and businesses that economic conditions are difficult and, therefore, the need for action by the State of Hawaii and Congress is necessary to return the islands to economic well-being.

Although much of the mainland has been experiencing strong economic growth, Hawaii, despite periodic spurts of recovery, in fact remains stagnant. The 7-year recession in Japan and more recently in Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand has resulted in declining tourism, Hawaii's lifeblood, and subsequently high unemployment, record bankruptcies, foreclosures, and declining property values. In short, Hawaii is experiencing the deepest recession since statehood.

Beyond the hardship being experienced by thousands of families in Hawaii, there have been layoffs which triggered declining confidence in the economy. There has been a cutback in spending and fearing for the future, a very real and human reaction I might say, Mr. Speaker.

The consequence, however, is additional economic contraction, more layoffs and every business thus is affected.

There is, in the face of this grim situation, knowledge that we will get back on our feet. In time, the Asian economies will restructure, currency exchange rates will stabilize, tourism will rebound, and the economy will regain its strength. We must, however, take every action available at the disposal of the Federal Government to cushion the recession and provide the short-term economic stimulation necessary to see it through the hard times.

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In addition to the successes I mentioned earlier, there are some projects still in the works. I am happy to be working with the Small Business Administration and the Department of Commerce to identify resources that can be brought to bear on our problems in Hawaii.

For example, the Commerce Department needs adequate funding for its community and economic development program. A \$50 million appropriation would provide needed grants for planning and technical assistance many communities need which are experiencing the economic problems that Hawaii has.

I am working with the Congressional leadership and administration to reestablish the spousal business travel deduction and increasing business meal and entertainment deductions which will help promote tourism, not only for Hawaii, but all over the mainland as well.